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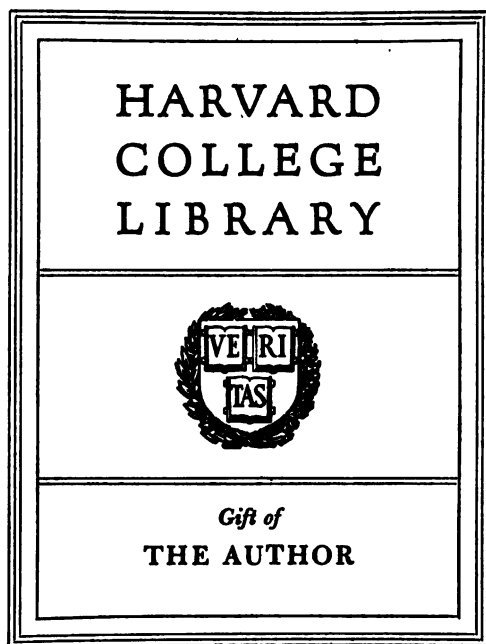
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Ancient Norumbega

OR THE

VOYAGES OF SIMON FERDINANDO AND JOHN WALKER TO THE PENOBSCOT RIVER. 1579—1580.

Revised from the N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register, April, 1890.

It is much to be desired that, in our days, when a sound and severe spirit of criticism, devoid of a character of contempt, prevails, the old investigations of Powell and Richard Hakluyt might be resumed in England and Ireland. I do not share in the rejecting spirit.—*Humboldt.*

Benjamin Franklin
BY B. F. DE COSTA.



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ANCIENT NOROMBEGA.

IN the third volume of "The Narrative and Critical History of America" (pp. 171 and 186), the writer has stated a few facts with respect to Simon Ferdinando, who, so far as his knowledge extends, led the first English expedition to the region now covered by the State of Maine, but then known as a part of Norombega.

Simon Ferdinando was known in connection with Virginia, beginning with the year 1584. In 1586 he served with White, who quarrelled, and loaded him with abuse.* This was echoed by Williamson,† and emphasized by Dr. Hawkes,‡ who styled him a "treacherous villain" and "contemptible mariner," declaring that he was a Spaniard hired by his nation to deceive the English colony. Later, however, the account of his services under Grenville, 1585, came to light, and his faithfulness and skill are highly applauded by Ralph Lane,§ thus relieving his memory from unjust aspersions. It now remains to speak of what he accomplished in 1579.

Simon Ferdinando was a Portuguese, not a Spaniard. There is, however, to be had at present only a glimpse of his voyage, which is brought to light in one of the papers connected with David Ingram, who, with two companions, is believed to have travelled on the Indian trails from the Bay of Mexico to Maine during 1567-8, embarking on a French ship somewhere near the St. John's River.|| The essential part of the narrative relating to Ferdinando comprises a few lines :

"1579 Simon Ferdinando Mr. Secretary Walsingham's man went and came from the same coast wthin three monthes in the little ffrigate without any other consort, and arrived at Dartmouth where he ymbarked when he beganne his viage."

The "said coast" was none other than the region of Norombega, the present State of Maine, towards which, at that time, all eyes were turned. Certain disconnected events which preceded the voy-

* Hakluyt, III. 280.

† Hist. Carolina, I. 53.

‡ Hist. N. Carolina, I. 196.

§ *Archeologia Americana*, IV. 11; and Col. State MSS., I. Aug. 12, 1585.

|| "Magazine of American History," Vol. IX. 168; "Colonial State Papers." Vol. I. No. 2, and the Tanner MSS., Bodleian Library, Oxford.

age of Ferdinando also gain some notice, though of the details of the voyage itself nothing can be learned at present.

It appears that, in 1577, "Simon Ferdinando a Portuguese," was called at Cardiff to testify with respect to the piracy of "John Callice and other pirates." Ferdinando says that he sailed with "Callic" or "Callice," two years previous as pilot, Callice having "a shipp at Rye prepared to passe to the Indians," meaning the West Indies; and that a Portuguese ship was plundered, though, being sick, he was not charged with complicity. He says that they met the Portuguese vessel when "travelling towards America." Some time after, evidently in 1576, he "bought a little bark," and made a profitless cruise towards the Canaries. This vessel cost him "forty marks," and was probably the "little frigate" in which he sailed to New England. Afterwards he was cast into jail "upon suspicion of heresy," though he was liberated and became Secretary "Walsingham's man."

Upon his return he appears to have been interested in matters that concerned Frobisher; and, November 7th, 1581, he addressed a letter to that adventurer.* The following year, May 1st, he was mustered as first pilot in the "galleon Leicester"† under Fenton, bound to the Moluccas; also serving as pilot to the Virginia expeditions of 1585 and 1587. Ferdinando, according to Lane, possessed "grete skylle and grete government," and was a trusty man. With the notice of this voyage, set on foot apparently by Secretary Walsingham, Simon Ferdinando passes out of sight until 1585, when he sailed to Virginia. Nevertheless he performed his part, and deserves honorable mention amongst those worthies who, by their labors and sacrifices, prepared the way for the occupation of New England.‡

* British Museum MSS., VIII. Otho, fol. 100.

† *Ibid*, fol. 205.

‡ In 1577 Cardiff, Wales, had become the headquarters of a large gang of pirates, sixty of whom had their maintainers there, and, though well known, the town's people were unwilling to give information. April 3d, of that year, a Commission sat to examine the matter, and on March 17th Ferdinando testified. The following was drawn by the author from the dingy archives:

"The said Simon fferdinando sayeth that he knoweth Callic and hath knowen him the space of these three or four yeares last past but he went not to sea wth him untill wthin these two yeares ffor he sayeth that aboutes Michelmas was two yeares the said Callic sent for this Exalat then being at London and then declared to the Exalat [Examinant] that Mr Harry Knowles had a shipp at Rye prepared to passe to the Indians and that this Exalat should be Pylatt thereof yf he lysted and that the same was the requeast of the said Mr Knowles, and in deede to that effect the said Mr Knowles did speake to this Exalat himself and sayeth that according to that request this Examinant take vpon him to be Pylatt of w^{ch} shipp the said Callic was Mr and one fferdinando was Capitaine.

And we traveling to the seas ffor want of weather they taryed long vpon the cost of England and by reason thereof spent much of their victual and yet in the end travelling towordes America they met wth a Portingall vpon the costes of the land of Portingall and from him they toke aboutes 100 chestes of Sugar being part of his loding and haveing gotten that pryse they arryved wth the same at the rode of Penmarth besyde Cardief in the Countie of Glaymorgan aboutes Allhalowtide [Nov. 1] last was two yeres the said Callic the Mr and fferdinando the Captayne made sail thereof to divers persons to whome certainly he knoweth not ffor he this Exalat was then and for this tyme the shipp laye there at rode was verry like to have died and more touching the circumstances of that journey he cannot saye saving that they gave this exalat tenne pounds of the commodity they had by the sale of that sugar.

The material given in the long extract, appended as a note, is of interest, as giving some account of the life of Simon Ferdinando, who doubtless possessed many of the characteristics of sailors of that period, the best of whom kept a "nice conscience" no more than Chaucer's "Shipman," usually being ready for plunder.

The information came to light in connection with a formal examination of David Ingram, which was also the occasion of bringing John Walker to notice. We give the papers entire, taking first the examination of David Ingram, which is a separate paper from his narrative, edited by the present writer.* It will be seen by the side remarks of the person who took down the account, that Ingram's statements in some places agree with those of "Sir Humphrey Gilbert's man," who, as we shall see, was John Walker, following Ferdinando in 1580. But let us proceed with Ingram's case, remembering that early visitors to America were reckless in their descriptions and beliefs,—the Popham colonists in Maine, 1607, discovering nutmegs; Henry Hudson finding cliffs shining with silver; one expedition carrying to England a cargo of shining earth, thinking it was gold; while the Pilgrims at Plymouth heard lions in the woods, climbing a tree, like Ingram, to escape them: and the Dutch in New Netherland discovered unicorns and other strange beasts. The statement runs as follows:

Certeyne questions to be demanded of Davy Ingram sayler dwellinge at Barkinge in the countye of Essex, what he observed in his travell one the North side of the ryver of May where he remayned three moneths or thereabouts.

And further this exaiat sayeth that after this exaiat lying long at Cardiffe bought a little bark of Willm. Herbert Esqr deceased late vice admirall for the wth he paid forty marks and the same prepared to go to the seas to the Canarries & aboutes a twelvemonth & more past furnishing that bark wth nyne or tenne men travelling long vpon the seas towards that countrie of the Canarries and retorne again wthout doeing anything but losing their Journey their tyme and spending all they hadd and sythens [since] that tyme this exaiat hath had no doeing vpon the seas and sayeth that those nyne or tenne men whose names are these Christopher Horsham of the Isle of Whight was m^r of the shipp who is now deceased Richard Horsham his Brother Edward Clayes and the rest he sayeth he knoweth not their names but they were Englishmen of what countrie he knoweth no: And further sayeth that one Richard Aldersay of London was in the former journey in taking the suger wth them but not in this journey.

Being asked also who did help to furnish his shipp to the Canarries sayeth that one Willm Riccards, Robert Adams & John Thomas Bruer, of Cardiffe, did help to furnish the shipp, and sayeth that the shipp and all the furniture amounted to the value of CLII. and no better sayeth that lying out tenne or twelve weekes wth the shipp they returned wthout doeing anything as before by reason whereof Richards, Adams and John Thomas lost their parts of their stock without commodity.

But this Journey as he sayeth was taken in hand at the beginning of Maye was twelvemonth. And further sayeth that after his return home from that journey he was committed to the shrieffs gayoll the countie of Glamorganshire by Thomas Lewis Esqr a justice of peace vpon suspicion of heressie and there remayned the space of 14 weeks and afterwards this Exaiat was bayled by the said Willm Herbert the then vice-admirall and Willm Mathew Esqr two of the Justices and sayeth that vpon his apprehension being asked certain questions of M^r Lewis of his two journies he answering the same, and was committed to the gayoll by the said M^r Lewis as before he hath said and after that he was sett at libertie as without examination when he was bayled as aforesaid."—Dom. Elizabeth MSS. Vol. CXII. S. ii.

* *Mag. Am. History*, Vol. IX. 168.—Ingram was put on shore with a large number of companions, by Sir John Hawkins.

He hath
confessed y^t
he travelled
there three
moneths.

1. Imp's howe longe the sayed Ingram travyled one ye North side of the Ryver of May.

2. Ite. whether that country be frutfull, and what kinde of fruts there be. He hath confessed y^t it is excedinge fruteful and that there is a tre as he called it a plum ten tree, w^{ch} of the leaves thereof being pressed will come a very excellent lycor as pleasant to drincke and as good, as any kinde of winne.

3. Ite. what kinde of beasts and cattell he saw there.

He hath confessed, y^t he sawe A Beast in all points like unto a horse, savinge he had two longe tusks, of w^{ch} beast he was put in great daunger of his lyfe, but he escaped by clyminge a tree. Also that there be wyld horses of goodly shape but the people of the country have not the use of them.

further that there be shepe, w^{ch} beareth redde woole somme thinge course there flesh good to eat, but is very redde.

4. Ite what kinde of people there be, and how they be aparrelled.

He hath confessed y^t farre into the land there be many people, and that he sawe a towne half a myle longe, and hath many streats farr broader then any streat in London.

further yt the men gooe naked savinge only the myddell part of them covered wth skynnes of beasts and wth leaves, And that generallye all men weare about there armes dyvers hoopes of gold and silver w^{ch} are of good thicknes and lykwyse they weare the lyke about the smale of there leggs w^{ch} hoopes are garnished wth pearle dyvers of them as bigge as ones thume.

That the womenne of the cuntrye gooe apareled wth plats of gold over there body much lyke unto an armor about the middest of there bodye they weare leafes, w^{ch} hath growinge there one very longe much lyke unto heare. and lykwyse about there armes and the smale of there leggs they weare hoopes of gold and sylver garnyshed wth fayer pearle.

S Hamfrye
Gylbert's
man w^{ch} he
sent to dis-
coveryland
reporteth
there howes
to be
buit in
lyke man-
nor rounde.

5. Ite what kind of buildings and houses they have in that country.

He hath confessed y^t they buyld there howses round lyke a Dovehouse and hath in like manner a louter on the topps of there howses and that there be many pillors that upholdeth many things of gold and silver very massye and great and lykewyse many pyllors of Cristall.

6. Ite whether there is any quantitie of gold, silver and pearle and of other iewells in that country.

He hath confessed that there is great aboundance of gold, sylver and pearle and that he hath seanne at the heads of dyvers springs and in smale rounninge brouks dyvers peaces of gold soume as bigge as his fynger, others as bigge as his fyst and peaces of dyvers bignes.

further that he seanne great aboundance of pearle and dyvers strannge stones of what sort or valewe he knewe not.

Sr H. Gyl-
bert's man
brought of
the syds of
this beast
from
the place he
discovered.

7. Ite whether he sawe A beast farre exceydinge an ox in bignes.

He hath confessed that there be in that country great aboundance of a kinde of beast almost as bigge agayne as an ox in shape of body not much differinge from an ox, savinge that he hath eares of a great bignes, that are in fashone much like unto the eares of a bloudhound havinge thereon very longe heare, and lykwyse on his breast, and other parts of his bodye longe heare.

further he hath reported of dyvers kinds of wyld beasts whose skynnes

* John Walker who went out to Norombega in 1580.

+ *Ibid.*

are very rich furreas, lykwyse of dyvers kinds of fruts and trees of great eastimatione.

That there is a tree w^{ch} beareth a frute lyke an aple but is poyson to eate for the aple beinge broken there is a blacke lycor in the mydest thereof.

Also that there is a tree that the barke thereof tasteth lyke pepper.

Divers other matters of great importaunce he hath confessed (yf they be true) w^{ch} he sayeth that upon his lyfe he offereth to goe to the place, to approve the same true.

(Endorsed)

ab^t 1584. Questions to be demanded of
David Ingram concerning his
knowledge of a discovery.*

Next may be given a statement of things "over & above that which Ingram upon his examination did Confesse," the statement relating to both Ferdinando and Walker and seeming to have been furnished through Sir Humphrey himself. At least he conferred personally with Walker, who was "his man."

The Reporte of Iteme that haue travelled the afore said Countryes wth the note of the such things as they haue found there, ouer and aboue that which Ingram upon his examinacon did confesse, whose names are Vererzanus, Jaques Cartier, John Barros, Andrewe Thevett,† John Walker of w^{ch} number S^r Humfrey Gylbert did conferre in person with the three last named.

1579 Simon fferdinando M^r Secretary Walsinghams man went and came to and from the said coast wthin three months in the little ffrigate wthout any other consort, and arryved at Dartmouth where he ymbarked when he begaune his viage.

(sic) Note
1580.

John Walker Englishman and his Company did discover, a siluer mine wthin the Riuer of Norambega, on the North shore upon a hill not farre from the riuer side about IX leagues from the mouth thereof where he founde the said riuer VII leagues or thereabout ouer and XVIII fadome and hault deepe. The riuer at the mouth beinge about X leagues broad, and XXV fadome deepe wthout barre.

And the said riuer to holde that his breadthe so much farther then he was as he coulde possibly kenne, beinge by estimacon about XX miles.

The Country was most excellent both for the soyle, diuersity of sweete woode and other trees. Who also founde at the same time in an Indian house VII miles wthin the lande from the ryvers side aboue III^e drye hides, whereof the most parte of them were eightene foote by the square.

Both he and his Company sayled from the said Coast into Englande in XVII dayes.‡

That the said coast was the region lying south of Nova Scotia

* Col. *State Papers, Dom. Elizabeth.* Vol. 175, No. 95. Public Record Office, London.

† Thevet, the writer has endeavored to prove, never saw New England, and described it only through the relations of others.—See "The Northmen in Maine."

‡ Col. *State Papers*, Vol. I. No. 2.—Public Record Office, London. Many of the old stories about silver have failed; this by Walker is vindicated by the fact that silver mining is now a recognized industry around the Penobscot region, where new mines are being opened. Gold is also found in paying quantities; while the pearl oyster formerly abounded in New England waters, the Pilgrims finding pearls at Cape Cod in 1620.

there can be no doubt. This is apparent from the account of what followed, which it may be well to state briefly.

It appears that, in 1580, Sir Humphrey had been obliged to transfer his patent to lands in the new world, but, nevertheless, he sent out an expedition that year, under Walker, as his full statement already quoted under that date proves. Still he was determined not to withhold himself from enterprise, while we read in Dr. Dee's Diary, under July 16, 1582, this entry:

"A meridie hor 3½ cam Sir George Peckham to me to know the tittle of Norombega in respect of Spayn and Portugall."* The following year Gilbert once more sailed. March 11th, Aldworth, Mayor of Bristol, William Salterne and others, whose families were afterward connected with efforts in New England, agreed to furnish a ship of sixty and a bark of forty tons, "*to be left in the country*," under Mr. Carlisle, who probably did not go,† though the two vessels seem to have been included in the fleet of five sail. At the last moment, Spanish influence nearly succeeded in keeping Sir Humphrey at home. England again felt the baneful power that delayed the voyage of Verrazano. The Bull of Alexander was still a power,‡ and the Armada was already foreshadowed. Clearing himself of the charge of piracy, brought by Spanish spies, Sir Humphrey got to sea, June 11th. Raleigh's ship was obliged to put back, on account of sickness amongst the crew, but the rest went on, reaching New Foundland July 30th. August 5th, Gilbert took formal possession in the name of the Queen, and one ship was despatched to England. Still, as the Patent required actual possession in the region of New England, he sailed southward, and, August 27th, reached the latitude of 44° N. The next evening was fair, and, "like the swanne that singeth before her death," those in the Admiral sounded trumpets and indulged in merriment. But the next day a storm arose, and the Admiral was lost upon a shoal near Sable Island with nearly all her crew. There now remained only the "Hind" and the "Squerrell," a "little frigate" of twelve tons, and but few supplies. Sir Humphrey did not deem it prudent to sail farther south, and accordingly shaped his course for home. Though admonished of the risk he ran in trusting himself to the frigate, he proceeded in this overladen craft, the deck covered with nets and artillery, to recross the Atlantic, whose waves were already smitten by the autumnal gales.

When north of the Azores they met with much bad weather "and terrible seas, breaking short and high pyramid wise." Then when night came, the sailors on the great ship, the Hind, saw the fire of St. Elmo playing upon one end of the main yard, which, when it appears double, is an auspicious sign that the "seamen doe call Castor and Pollux"; "but," it is added, "we had only *one*,"

* Diary, p. 8. *Ibid.* 16. Hakluyt III. 170.

† *Ibid.* p. 182, and Read's "Henry Hudson."

‡ Records of Privy Council in Edwards's "Life of Raleigh," I. 78.

and accordingly they accepted it as a sign of doom. Nevertheless, Sir Humphrey was as strong of heart as ever, and we read: "Munday the ninth of September, in the afternoon, the Frigat was neere cast away, oppressed by waves, yet at that time recovered: and giving forth signes of ioy, the Generall sitting abaft with a booke in his hand, cried unto us in the Hind (so oft as we did approch within hearing) We are as neere to heaven by sea as by land. Reiterating the same speech, well beseeming a souldier, resolute in Jesus Christ, as I can testifie he was." Still the Knight was engaged in his last adventure, and his brave heart could not save him from the sea. Hence we read again, that "the same Monday night, aboute twelve of the clocke, or not long after, the Frigat being ahead of vs in the Golden Hinde, suddenly her lights were out, whereof as it were in a moment, we lost the light, and withall our watch cryed, the Generall was cast away, which was too true. For at that moment the frigate was deuoured and swallowed vp by the Sea." We are to notice, however, that he had intended to colonize in the region described by Verrazano, and it was this region that Hays referred to as a country extending northward from Florida, "lying vnder very temperate Climes."* Clarke also says that they were "going for the discovery of Norumbega."† The Mayor of Bristol spoke more definitely in his reply to Walsingham, "concerning a Western voyage intended for the discovery of the coast of America lying to the south-west of Cape Briton."

There were those who favored this expedition for other than mercantile considerations. Christopher Carlile, the person nominated by Aldworth to go out with the two ships furnished by himself and friends, in advocating a Colony during the April preceding the voyage, associated New England colonization with the exercise of a religion not to be enjoyed elsewhere in foreign parts by British subjects. He says:

"And to the godly minded it hath this comfortable commoditie, that in this trade their factours, bee they servants or children, shall have no instruction or confessions of Idolatrous Religion enforced upon them, but contrarily shall be at their free libertie of Conscience, and shall find the same Religion exercised, which is most agreeable to their parents and masters."‡

The particular site had in view for the colony has already been pointed out; and Carlile says: "But who shall look into the qualities of this voyage, being directed to the latitude of fortie degrees or thereabouts, of that hithermost part of America shal find it has as many points of good moment belonging vnto it, as may almost be wished for."§ He then speaks of the shortness and safety of the voyage, which could be made with a single wind at all times of the year.

* Hakluyt III. 143; *Ibid*, 173.

† *Ibid*, 182.

‡ Hakluyt III. 184. The Plymouth Colonists had no more advanced ideas of religious liberty than this.

§ *Ibid*, 184.

So confident were the members of Gilbert's expedition of success, that the learned Hungarian, Stephanus Parmenius Budeius, "Master of Arts and Philosophie," and the "friend & brother" of Hakluyt, was taken in the enterprise, expressly to record the high proceedings of the intended Norombega colony in Latin Verse; as the subject would be adorned with "the eloquent stile of the Orator and rare Poet of our time."* But this was not to be. Parmenius, of Buda, found a watery grave at the wreck of the Admiral, and Norombega remained unsung.

This excursion is made into the period which follows Ferdinando and Walker, to indicate the more distinctly the situation of Norombega, for while some had their attention fixed upon the latitude of the Hudson, these two navigators had distinctly in view the region lying around the great river which appears in a long series of ancient maps, and which was none other than the Penobscot, to which, as already said, Simon Ferdinando the Portuguese led the first known English expedition.

We have next to turn to John Walker and note the abiding faith of Gilbert in the promise of the new land. Circumstances had forced him to transfer his Patent, but he succeeded in sending out a little party to make observations and engage in trade. The voyage made at his instance had for its destination the Maine coast, and the agent employed was one John Walker, afterwards perhaps a clergyman of the English Church. We have seen that a marginal entry in a manuscript in the State Paper Office, already given, runs as follows: "Sir H. Gilbert's man brought of the syds of this beast from the place he discovered."† The beast referred to was of the kind mentioned in the examination of David Ingram, of 1582, and the voyage of discovery was one of recent date. A careful examination shows that the year 1580 was the only one in which such a discovery could have been made for Gilbert, while under that year we have, through Sir Humphrey, the voyage which answers the description, the John Walker referred to having made a voyage to Norombega, where he obtained the "syds" or hides.

In speaking of rivers, the old voyagers seldom made any distinction between the estuary and the river proper. This was clearly the case in the present instance by Walker, who does not appear to have been a navigator; but the rough estimate agrees sufficiently well with the map of the Coast Survey, which gives a width of twenty-one miles to the entrance of Penobscot Bay, between the Isle au Haut and White Head. But the old sailors, in the absence of surveys, might include the distance between White Head and Deer Island, which would correspond to the computation of Walker, who made the Norombega ten leagues wide at its entrance. There is also room for his estimate of seven leagues in width, nine leagues in, as well

* Hakluyt III. 156. Specimens of his "stile" may be found in Hakluyt III. 138.

† *Ante*, page 6.

as abundance of deep water. Beyond question it was the Penobscot that he had in mind, and actually visited, as the Norombega River. It is so well known that the Penobscot was accepted at that period as the Norombega, that it would be idle to argue the question. Champlain and Lescarbot, in the following century, never doubted this, though they were disappointed upon finding no evidence of the City, which, perhaps, was never anything more than an Indian village carrying on a trade with the French and English in peltry. The French had other trading places, and notably, that of Boston Harbor and the Charles River, as John Smith testifies, and evidences of their occupation may yet be established; but, nevertheless, the Norombega will probably be identified with the noble Penobscot.*

This voyage of Walker, so thoroughly attested as to leave no doubt with regard to its performance, had express reference to the plans of Sir Humphrey, which the latter proceeded to execute in 1583. It is not indicated that Walker was the navigator of the expedition, though he may have been. At all events he represented Sir Ferdinando, and probably was a layman like Robert Salterne, supercargo of Pring in 1603, and who afterwards became a clergyman of the Establishment. At any rate, Walker the commercial man in search of "Hyds" disappears after the voyage, while Walker the clergyman appears immediately as a chaplain upon the high seas. A manuscript that might have given light on the subject has been injured by fire.† Still we may notice that, June 23, 1583, Fenton speaks of

* We may here append a translation made from the manuscript of Jehan Allefonsee in the *Bibliothèque Nationale*, Paris, who was on this coast in 1542, and describes Norombega and its River, though like the most of the accounts of that period, it is two degrees out of the way in latitude. In his estimate of the river, it will be seen he takes in all the water from White Head to Mount Desert. He says: "The River is more than forty leagues wide at its entrance, and retains its width some thirty or forty leagues. It is full of Islands, which stretch some ten or twelve leagues into the sea, and are very dangerous on account of rocks and shoals. The said river is in 42 N. L. Fifteen leagues within this river there is a town called Norombega, with clever inhabitants, who trade in furs of all sorts; the towns folk are dressed in furs, wearing sable. I question whether the said river enters the Hochelaga. For more than forty leagues it is salt water, at least so the town folk say. The people use many words which sound like Latin. They worship the sun. They are tall and handsome in form. The land of Norombega lies high and is well situated." This, every visitor to this stately and imposing region knows to be true; but the "Latin" came of the old disposition to follow phonetic resemblance.

† In the Cotton MSS. British Museum (Otho E. VIII. fol. 130) is a letter by Walker to the Earl of Leicester, written when at the point of sailing. Owing to the ravages of the fire it is more or less undecipherable, but the best possible version is appended. The blank spaces show where the edges of the manuscript were burned off:—

" Barnes wth d me wth greate frendlynnesse
a ever bounden vnto yo^r L for sendinge m synce my
depture fro the court, I have byn have taken insytutyō and inductyō into
the fyllacke whyche her Ma^{tie} bestowed vpo me, and for, to Sr John
Arundell: The Byshopp shewed curtesye he myghte: and assured me of his
frend [ship?] he knowethe that it was her Ma^{ties} to geve, whe it graunted: my
moste humble sute vnto yo^r good yo^r L would be a meanes vnto her Ma^{tie} that
I dyspensed wth to keepe my lyving vntyll I returne fro the indyans: Mr
Cudworthe wyll bringe yo^r L the to be assygned, w^{ch} M^r Secretary wyll procure
at L fyrst wrot yo, for yf I may have my poore lyvinge my cōminge
agayne, I shall thinke my selfe well satisfy I am now somewhat in debte, and
the pyft thereof (the tyme of my absence) wyll dyscharge the same, to the greate quyet-
ness of my cōscience. And for my selfe bothe harte and hande I wyll cōtynue and ever
remayne as faythfull a s^rvvaunte as ever yo^r L had in s^rvce:

Whereof I hope yo^r L shall have good experyence yf ever I returne The allmyghtye

John Walker as chaplain to the Earl of Leicester, though he went as Chaplain with Fenton* in the attempted expedition to the Moluccas. He was a member of the Council of Advice, and was attached to the "Edward."† The expedition sailed, and in February, 1584, Walker was taken sick. The journal contains the following entry: "The 5 day about 10. a'clocke in the forenoone M. Walker died, who had bene weake and sicke. The bloodie fixe 6. dayes, wee tooke a view of his things, and prised them, and heaved him overboard, and shot a peece for his knell."‡

Walker was evidently a humane man, using his influence to heal dissensions in the ill-starred expedition, and preventing the admiral from exercising great cruelty.

Thus, tossing upon the waves of the lonely Southern Sea, he, who probably was the explorer of Norombega in 1580, died, and there he found his burial. But his influence did not perish with him. The knowledge which he acquired went to swell the sum of Sir Humphrey Gilbert's information, and helped to spur him on to undertake his last voyage, or, otherwise, to lure him on to death; for, knight and priest, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and "his man" found a common sepulture in the sea.

Gilbert, in turn, was followed by Sir Ferdinando Gorges, who set his hand with great strength to the work of New England colonization, of which he became the more immediate founder. Sir Ferdinando, however, was under great obligations to such men as those who led the way to Maine in 1579-80; while the Pilgrims of Leyden, who were directed to Plymouth in 1620 by the employees of Gorges, were in turn indebted to Walker and his associates for the greeting they received from the chief Samoset, friend of Gorges, who exclaimed "Welcome, Englishmen!"

God p'serve yo^r L in most happye estate to his glorye & yo^r L hartes desyre. Southe-
hampto this xxijth of Apryll: 1582.

Y^r honorable L most bounden
s[']vaunte

JOHN WALKER.

May it please yo^r L to geve me leave further to advertyse yo^r L: that the ryghte worshyp-
full S^r Frauncys Drake hathe vsed me wth the greateste frendeshyppe that any mayghte
desyre: bothe in instructinge me in the voyage and in dealinge lyberallye wth me and my
fellowe preacher: for the whyche I beseche yo^r L geve him thanks

[Addressed:]

To the ryghte honorable my
Singular good Land M^r the
erle of Leycester geve these."

* MSS. in British Museum, Otho VIII. f. 87.

† Sloane MSS. No. 2146, f. 73, and Otho VIII. fols. 142 and 179-200.

‡ Hakluyt, Vol. III. p. 767. Otho, f. 146.



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